

specific separation of the 'Seefrosch,' and the small race of the green aquatic frog, or the blue and green varieties of the same, and the importance of the above result is increased by the fact that the spawning-seasons of the crossed races do not coincide."

The difference in the spawning-season is the important factor which permits the existence in the same locality of two forms so closely allied and yet so distinct, as no doubt occasions for interbreeding must be extremely rare. Analogous instances are known in Botany, as my friend Prof. Errera kindly informs me, and the name 'Asyngamie' has been coined for them¹. It is indeed a fact that a fortnight's interval in the breeding-time of the two races must constitute a very effectual obstacle. As far as my experience goes, the females get rid of their eggs within a very few days. Having received this spring, through the kindness of Dr. F. Müller, about 25 specimens of *R. esculenta* from Basle, all the females laid their eggs in the nights of May 29-30 and 30-31, save one which spawned two days later. When, on the 27th of May, 1884, I received from Noack 85 specimens of *R. ridibunda* and 41 of *R. esculenta*, I found that all the females of the former kind had done spawning, and the males gave no signs of breeding dispositions; whereas all the *R. esculenta* I opened were full of ova, and out of the few males I possessed, two actually seized hold of females of their kind. But I did not obtain any spawn.

4. Description of a new Species of *Icterus*. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

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While engaged in the determination of the specimens of Icteridæ in the British Museum of Natural History, I have found amongst them a single skin of a typical *Icterus*, formerly in Mr. Gould's collection, which appears to belong to an unrecognized species. I propose to name it after the well-known collector so long resident on the Upper Amazons, by whom it was originally procured.

ICTERUS HAUXWELLI, sp. nov.

Flavissimus, aurantiaco tinctus: loris et capitis lateribus, cum gutture toto usque ad medium pectus, interscapulio angusto, alis et cauda nigerrimis: alis macula in secundariis alba ornatis: subalaribus flavis: rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. tota 8·5, alæ 3·75, caudæ 3·7.

Hab. Amazonia Superior; Chamicuros (*Hauxwell*).

Mus. Brit.

Obs. Species macula alari alba *I. grace-annæ* proxima, sed cauda tota nigra sanè diversa.

¹ Cf. A. Kerner, Vorläufige Mittheilung über die Bedetung der Asyngamie für die Entstehung neuer Arten: Innsbruck, 1874. This paper is unfortunately only known to me through the abstract in the Botan. Jahresber. for 1874, p. 903.